

Antichrist

Today, many Church leaders speculate about the term “**antichrist**” failing to regard its usage in the Scripture. First of all, consider a fact which will undoubtedly shock many people: the word “**antichrist**” never occurs in the Book of Revelation.

In spite of this important fact, this term is routinely used by Christian teachers as a synonym for “**the beast**” of **Revelation Chapter 13**. The term “**antichrist**” is used in a very specific sense and is unrelated to the figure known as “**the beast**” and “**666**”.

In the Scripture, the term “**antichrist**” is defined as a system of unbelief which denied the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

This heresy taught that Jesus was **NOT** the Christ. They denied the incarnation and rejected the Doctrine of the Apostles. (**1 John 4:6**)

1 John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

The Scripture describes the individuals who were once members of the first-century Church apostatized and now were attempting to deceive other Christians in order to sway the Church as a whole away from Jesus Christ. The Scripture identifies these apostatized individuals as “**antichrist**”. (**1 John 2:19,26, 4:1-3, 2 John 1:7,10**)

1 John 2:19;26, 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

1 John 4:1-3, **1** Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because **many false prophets are gone out into the world**. **2** Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: **3** and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: **and this is that spirit of antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and **even now already is it in the world**.

A further error teaches that the “**antichrist**” is one specific individual and connected to the notion that the “**antichrist**” is someone who will make his appearance toward the end of the world.

Both of these ideas are contradicted by Scriptures in the New Testament. The only occurrences of the term “**antichrist**” are in the following verses from the letters of the Apostle John: **1 John 2:18-19, 22, 26, 1 John 4:3, 2 John 1:7**.

1 John 2:18-19, 18 Little children, **it is the last time**: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, **even now are there many antichrists**; whereby **we know that it is the last time**. **19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

22 Who is a liar but **he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist**, that denieth the Father and the Son.

26 These things have I written unto you concerning **them that seduce you**.

1 John 4:3 and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and **this is that spirit of antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; **and even now already is it in the world**.

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver **and an antichrist**.

The early first-century Church had been warned about the coming of “**antichrist**”. There was not just one, but “**many antichrists**”. Therefore, the term “**antichrist**” cannot simply be a designation of one individual who would arise sometime in the distant future.

As a matter of fact, the Apostle John wrote that “**antichrists**” were already working as John wrote His epistles. In **1 John 2:18**, notice this phrase: “**even now are there many antichrists**”. John warned the early Church not to be deceived or seduced into believing this antichrist heresy. (**1 John 2:26**)

In **1 John 4:3**, that the spirit of antichrist was already in their first-century world. **2 John 1:7** also declares that antichrist was already present in the first century. Again, the “**antichrist**” was not some figure who should arise at the end of the world.

When we put together all the above Scriptures, we can clearly see the definition of “**antichrist**” as a system of apostasy and individual apostates.

In other words, “**antichrist**” was the fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy that a time of great apostasy would come when many would be offended and would fall away and would betray one another and hate one another.

Jesus also stated that many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. (**Matthew 24:10-13**)

***Matthew 24:10-13, 10** And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. **11** And **many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many**. **12** And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. **13** But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

The Apostle Paul also warns of a “**falling away**” from the hope of the Gospel. (**2 Thessalonians 2:3, Colossians 1:23**) Jude also warned of ungodly men creeping in unawares denying the only Lord Jesus Christ. (**Jude 4**)

2 Thessalonians 2:3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first**, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

Colossians 1:23, 23 *if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, **and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel**, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*

Conclusion

When the doctrine of “**antichrist**” is understood, it fits in perfectly with what the rest of the New Testament tells us about the age of the “**terminal generation**”.

The Apostle John made it very clear in his warnings to the early first-century Church. He warned them of those who had believed the Gospel but later had forsaken the faith and went about trying to deceive others.

These apostates were called “**antichrist**” by the Scriptures because they had rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah, therefore; they were against Christ. Jesus also made it very clear that many false prophets would arise and deceive many bringing about a great falling away.

The Scriptures clearly state that there were **many “antichrists”** present back in the first century. One thing is very obvious, the notion that the “**Antichrist**” is one man who will be a man of sin who will rise to great power at some time in our future is not in the Bible, therefore; it is false doctrine.

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